GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
DEFENCE
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:4914
ANSWERED ON:28.04.2008
MARITIME SECURITY
Singh Shri Uday

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the maritime security apparatus of the country is sufficient to protect offshore oil and gas blocks and other maritime interests of the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether there is any proposal to raise the manpower strength of the offshore Defence Advisory Group of the Indian Navy; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

Answer

MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI A.K. ANTONY)

(a) to (d): India's coastal waters are guarded by the Indian Coast Guard and the Indian Navy in coordination with the State Police. India's strategic and economic interests in Indian Ocean Region are well protected and the Indian Navy and the Coast Guard are geared into ensuring the safety of India's maritime interests. Adequate reconnaissance and surveillance of the sea areas of India's interest is also maintained by both shore-based and ship-borne surveillance aircraft. Indian Navy's ships and aircraft undertake regular patrols to ensure the safety of the country's off-shore oil exploration platforms, etc.

The security and surveillance apparatus in India's territorial waters and exclusive economic zone has been enhanced substantially over the years. The improvement of such an apparatus, based on felt needs, is an ongoing process.